

A Congratulation,

In Honour of the Annual Festival of the Lords, Knights, Esq; and Yeomandry
of the County of *Hertford*, at *Merchant Taylors Hall*, on *Thursday Sept. 6. 1655.*

Winged with zeal, and love, I hither bring,
Unto your Feast, an humble offering,
As a just Tribute, due to you that are,
The Columnes that sustain good *Hertford-shire*,
The union of your Country, the Cause that we,
Thus pay our vows to your Solemnity.
But whence should I assume Prophetick Rage
Rapt up in Sacred fury to Presage,
Your happy Omens, 'Tis your loves inspire
My humble muse with this *Aetheriall* fire:

My frosty soul; so as *promethian* heate
Gives my cold Clay a warmth, or birth as great
As is my Countrys Crop; your Sun-like Eyes
First fir'd my heart offer'd you sacrifice.
Burning in zeal, better then pounds of Gumms
Or Altars smoking with fat *Hecatombs*;
Which you (I hope) like Charity of Heav'n
Accept my grain of Incense, that is given
For to unite you, in this mutuell love
Equall unto those knowing powers above.

The true Description of the County of *Hertford*, with a Character of the
People, their Manners, and Conditions, formerly written by some
ancient Chronologers.

THe Country is Champion, the Aire temperate and healthful, the Soyle fertile, and very
plentifull, Especially for wheat and Barly; it having 19. Market Towns, and 120. Parish
Churches, One main River, (besides divers Rivo'lets) Bridges 24. Parks 23. The people of this
County are generally of Noble dispositions, Courteous and generous, but chiefly noted for true
heartedness, valour, and fidelity, Even by *Julius Caesar* himself who held them in great veneration,
sufficiently having made triall of them in his warrs against the *Picts* and *Scots* and other invaders
of this Nation. There have been 3 Bloody and Mortall Battels fought in this Country; The
first at *St. Albones*, May 23. 1455. between *Richard Duke of Yorke*, and the *Earl of Warwick*.
The second at *St. Albones* Feb. 27. 1461. by *Queen Margaret* against the *Duke of Norfolk* and
Suffolke. The third, at *Barnet* 14. April 1471. between *K. Henrich* 6th. and *Edm. King*.

I hope you cannot think that there can be
In me (dear SIRS!) the seeds of flattery;
I were unworthy, if I would not sing
My Countreys Worth; and when I touch a string
Of my *Phaebian Lyre*, Chast *Daphne* shall
Tender her Bayes to deck your Festivall;

Devoted to your merit, *Bacchus* then
Shall with his Richest *Nectar* swelling pen
Indue me with such wine, as I do think
At least do wish, that you your selves may drink;
Then pray, that many years, your feasts made even
In mutuell love, you all may feast in Heaven.

Which are the Cordiall desires of
your unworthy Country-man,

JOHN CROWCH.

The Stewards names for this present feast 1655. are these
Gentlemen following,

Mr. {	<i>William Thomson</i> <i>John Berresford</i> <i>John Ellis</i> <i>Robert Thomson</i>	Mr. {	<i>Robert Waller</i> <i>Joseph Sibley</i> <i>Robert Brisco</i> <i>Thomas Bateman</i>	Mr. {	<i>William Lee</i> <i>Richard Mead</i> <i>William Robinson</i> <i>Robert Warner</i>
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